

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9705

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS, EEWT, UR, US (ZINOV'YEV, NIKOLAY VASILYEVICH)
SUBJECT: ZINOV'YEV VIEWS ON MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS

REF: STATE 155937

1. E/ COUNSELOR INFORMED ZINOV'YEV JULY 6 THAT WE HOPED TO RECEIVE AUTHORIZATION SHORTLY TO ISSUE HIS TRANSIT VISA. AT SAME TIME COUNSELOR DREW ZINOV'YEV'S ATTENTION TO FACT THAT USSR AND FRANCE HAVE AGREED MUTUALLY TO PROVIDE MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS TO MEMBERS OF FIRMS, BANKS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ACCREDITED IN THE OTHER COUNTRY, TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES. HE NOTED THAT, AS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED, THIS IS THE KIND OF TREATMENT WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FOR OUR BUSINESSMEN IN USSR. ZINOV'YEV SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE FRENCH CASE.

2. AT JULY 4 RECEPTION, ZINOV'YEV HAD QUESTIONED E/C COUNSELOR AS TO WHAT US SIDE HOPED TO ACHIEVE IN GENERAL AREAS OF VISAS. THERE WERE ALREADY A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS FOR BUSINESSMEN, IN HIS VIEW, AND THERE COULD WELL BE LESS IN SO FAR AS THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED. IT WAS SUFFICIENT, HE THOUGHT, THAT RANKING REPRESENTATIVES OF US FIRMS HAVE MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS. SOVIETS NEEDED THEM ONLY FOR TOP PERSONNEL AND WOULD BE GLAD TO CUT BACK MUTUALLY, IF THAT WERE WHAT USG DESIRED. COUNSELOR SAID THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, WE WANT
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ASMUCH FACILITATION FOR OUR BUSINESSMEN AS CAN BE ACHIEVED FOR OUR BUSINESSMEN AS CAN BE ACHIEVED AND MENTIONED INCONVENIENCES AND SOMETIMES HARDSHIPS WHICH SUBORDINATE COMPANY OFFICIALS, PERSONNEL ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL FACE IN USSR WITHOUT THESE VISAS.

3. DURING SEPARATE BUT RELEATED DISCUSSION OF HIS TRANSIT VISA PROBLEM WITH CONSULAR COUNSELOR AT JULY 4 RECEPTION, LATTER INFORMED ZINOV'YEV OF SOME US VISA PROBLEMS IN USSR (E.G., MULTIPLE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS FOR BUSINESSMEN, EXIT VISA VALID DURATION OF STAY OF LONG TERM EXCHANGEES) AND NOTED THAT WITH GOOD WILL EACH SIDE IS IN POSITION TO FACILITATE VISA PROBLEMS FACED BY THE OTHER. ZINOV'YEV REPLIED THAT HE IS NOT COMPETENT TO MAKE OR EVEN INFLUENCE TRADE-OFFS ON VISA MATTERS.

4. COMMENT: IT WAS QUITE CLEAR FROM ZINOV'YEV'S PRESENTATION, WHICH WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE REVEALING THAN GUARDED STATEMENTS MADE LAST MONTH IN WASHINGTON BY DEPUTY MINISTER MANZHULO, THAT SOVIETS HAVE NO INTEREST IN BROADENING MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS FOR THEIR OWN STAFF IN US, A POINT THAT WAS INITIALLY MADE TO US DURING THE FIRST ROUND OF CONSULAR TALKS LAST YEAR (76 MOSCOW 13077). THEY ARE FAR FROM ANXIOUS TO FACILITATE OUR BUSINESSMEN IN THIS RESPECT, AND WE BELIEVE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED TO APPLY AS MUCH PRESSURE AS WE CAN TO BRING ABOUT ANY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH US BUSINESSMEN IN USSR MUST OPERATE.
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